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Commission for Social Development
Fifty-seventh session
11-21 February 2019
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Women's Health and Education Center, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-17757 (E) 261018

Please recycle

Statement

Ending Child Marriage and Protecting Vulnerable Girls & Women

The next generation of development programs must make ending child marriage a priority in its social protection policies. Investments should consider successful programmatic strategies, while continuing to test innovative approaches and evaluation techniques. No single strategy, however, will offer antidote to child marriage. Indeed, a combination of strategies, designed to fit the local context, will likely be most successful in transforming behaviours, attitudes and social norms.

Moving forward, there also must be more investment in documenting and evaluating what works to end child marriage. A body of successful programs now exists, and these may be expanded on. However, more work is required across geographic settings and communities. It is critical that these efforts do not overlook girls who are already married. They are among the most marginalized members of society and need special attention in development programs. Families, community leaders and the broader community are also essential to helping change norms and expectations about what is possible for girls and women.

The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations and works with partners, including UN DPI, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and numerous other UN Agencies and NGOs. WHEC is utilizing the following strategies in its work to end child marriage and improve status of women:

1. Supporting and enforcing legislation to increase the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years;

2. Providing equal access to quality primary and secondary education for both girls and boys;

3. Mobilizing girls, boys, parents and leaders to change practices that discriminated against girls and to create social, economic, and civic opportunities for the next generation;

4. Providing girls who are already married with options for schooling, employment and development of livelihood skills, and information and services on sexual and reproductive health (including HIV prevention). WHEC also works to offer recourse from violence in the home;

5. Addressing the root causes of child marriage, including poverty, gender inequality and discrimination, low value placed on girls and women, and violence against girls and women;

6. Supporting WHO's and UNICEF's work to reduce child marriage by connecting with the grassroot organizations and local non-profits working at the grassroots levels.

Most of all, ending child marriage requires the empowerment of girls and women themselves. Empowerment will enable girls and women to safeguard and transform their own futures, and, transform their own lives and enable them to live in dignity, which they, as human beings, they are entitled to do.

A Call for Global Action: The silence on the plight of child brides must end. Child marriage is a public health concern and it violates human rights laws and seriously compromises the development and health of affected individuals. There are many concerning biological facts related to child marriages, pregnancies and childbirths.

Please visit WHEC Practice Bulletin, title Teen Pregnancy: Understanding the Social Impact, available @ http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obs/obs002.php3 And please listen to: UN DPI's NGO Tuesday Chat Series, entitled: "Why Do Child Marriage Still Exist in Today's World?" sponsored by the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) can be accessed from the link: https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/dpi-ngo-chat-series-why-do-child-marriages-still-exist-todays-world-17-april-2018

Join our efforts!

Statement

The United Nations has long recognized that the imagination, ideals and energies of young people are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. The Member States of the United Nations acknowledged this in 1965 when they endorsed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people. It contains proposals for action, aiming at fostering conditions and mechanisms to promote improved well-being and livelihoods among young people. The WPAY focuses in particular on measures to strengthen national capacities in the field of youth and to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full, effective and constructive participation in society.

In 1995, the world youth population — defined by the United Nations as the age cohort 15–24 — was estimated to be 1.03 billion, or 18 per cent of the total world population. The majority of the world youth population (84 per cent in 1995) lives in developing countries. This figure is projected to increase to 89 per cent by 2025. The difficult circumstances that people experience in many developing countries are often even more difficult for young people because of limited opportunities for education and training, viable employment and health and social services, and because of a growing incidence of substance abuse and juvenile delinquency. Many developing countries are also experiencing unprecedented rates of rural-urban migration by young people. Apart from the statistical definition of the term "youth" mentioned above, the meaning of the term "youth" varies in different societies around the world. Definitions of youth have changed continuously in response to fluctuating political, economic and sociocultural circumstances.

Young people in industrialized countries comprise a relatively smaller proportion of the total population because of generally lower birth rates and longer life expectancy. They comprise a social group that faces particular problems and uncertainties regarding its future, problems that relate in part to limited opportunities for appropriate employment. Young people in all countries are both a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Their imagination, ideals, considerable energies and vision are essential for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. Thus, there is special need for new impetus to be given to the design and implementation of youth policies and programmes at all levels. The ways in which the challenges and potentials of young people are addressed by policy will influence current social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations.

Implementation of the Programme of Action requires the full enjoyment by young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also requires that Governments take effective action against violations of these rights and freedoms and promote non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, with full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of their young people, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all young women and men.

Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are called upon to assist young people from developing countries to obtain education and training at all levels in developed as well as in developing countries, as well as to participate in mutual academic exchanges among developing countries. Some

important actions should be based on: 1. Improving the level of basic education, skill training and literacy among youth; 2. Promoting mutual respect and understanding and the ideals of peace, solidarity and tolerance among youth; 3. Training for enterprise programmes; 4. Infrastructure for training youth workers and youth leaders; 5. Making farming more rewarding and life in agricultural areas more attractive.

The capacity for progress of our societies is based, among other elements, on their capacity to incorporate the contribution and responsibility of youth in the building and designing of the future. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account.

Governments should develop domestic policies to ensure that ICT is fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, as well as in support of the concept of lifelong learning. Governments, with the support of the international community, should promote and encourage local knowledge systems and locally produced content in media and communications, support the development of a wide range of ICT-based programmes in local languages, as appropriate, with content relevant to different groups of young persons, especially young women, and build the capacity of girls and women to develop ICT.

Governments, in collaboration with relevant actors in the information society, should ensure that young people are equipped with knowledge and skills to use ICT appropriately, including the capacity to analyse and treat information in creative and innovative ways, to share their expertise and to participate fully in the information society. Efforts should be made to provide special training courses for in-school and out-of-school youth to enable them to become conversant with ICT and to facilitate their use of such technologies.

It is imperative that young people continue to have access to evidence and skills-based, youth-specific HIV education to enable them to avoid high-risk behaviour. In some regions youth, especially girls, play a key role in caring for HIV/AIDS patients or their orphans. To ensure that young caregivers stay in school, build their skills and have the chance to generate an income, Governments should provide economic and social support to families that rely on young caregivers as well as support for improving home- and community-based care. Governments should ensure that prevention of HIV infection is the mainstay of national, regional and international responses to the pandemic, and should therefore commit themselves to intensifying efforts to ensure that a wide range of prevention programmes which take into account local circumstances, ethics and cultural values are available in all countries, in particular the most affected countries.

Protecting youth under age 18 from direct involvement in armed conflict Governments should ensure that children benefit from an early age from education about values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life in order to enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity, with tolerance and non-discrimination. Governments should promote a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue, including in both formal and non-formal education. Governments should consider, as a matter of priority, the ratification and effective implementation of the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182) of the International Labour Organization.

Implementation of the Programme of Action for youth offers important opportunities to expand technical and cultural exchanges among young people through new partnerships in both the public and private sectors; to identify and test

improved ways to leverage public resources, in partnership with the non-governmental and private sectors, to further Programme priorities; and to encourage and jointly plan innovative approaches to critical issues concerning youth.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Udyama, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

Pathways to Demonstrating Environmental Resilience:

Environmental resilience has become more necessary as it development matters. This is one of the mandates of multiple stakeholders to work hard seriously towards contributing to achieving SDGs. Climate variability & change contributes significantly to poverty and food, degradation and ecological insecurity. It is accelerating mass migration, depleting resource base and facilitates regional conflicts and affecting cohesiveness. Thus, proactive approaches are to managing climate variability within vulnerable rural communities and among institutions operating at community, sub-national, and national levels is a crucial step towards achieving the SDGs.

Global climate change already threatens the livelihoods of peoples in distant corners of the world. It is contributing to rising prices for grains and staples that are undermining food security for millions, particularly in countries with unstable weather patterns. It poses a profound threat to development in states that currently lack the resources to fulfil basic human rights. The scope of these problems — and of the action required to treat — reach beyond previous human challenges. Climate change shows up countless weaknesses in our current institutional architecture, including its human rights mechanisms especially survival, safety security, environmental sustainability across the globe more specific to Asia region.

Uneven Weather events & variances in climate disproportionately affect those living in extreme poverty. Further undermining their ability to live their lives in dignity, rising sea level, increasing ocean and surface temperature and extreme weather events like storms, droughts and cyclones are felt most acutely in poorest countries of the world and among the poorest and most marginalized. People living in poverty are less able to prepare for, or adapt to, climate change effects on the sociability and availability of food, drinking water, sanitation adequate housing and health care. A growing number of people will face disproportionate and loss of their homes and livelihoods which may also result in increased social unrest.

There are two important challenges to resilient society:

1. Ecological Poverty
2. Water Poverty

That have led to make people very much always hungry and thirsty, resource poor, diseased and these have threatened more, and vulnerabilities are getting compounded. Despite rich resources and minerals, further East Coast is considered as one of the backward states in human development index. (RBI). http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajan-panel-ranks-odisha-most-backward-state/article5170719.ece

On the other hand, in east coast land desertification, land degradation and drought are a maior threaten the local environment, food security and livelihoods of millions of people, especially in dry lands. Promisingly, after many decades of on-the-ground work on Sustainable Land Management approaches and practices, many options are available for reversing these negative trends. There are few program opportunities, solutions to policy options for sustainable land management the sustainable management of soil resources, and drought management aimed at achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN), and demonstrating the links between land & water, food security, poverty reduction and the provision of ecosystem services that is being mandate of Government of India & other international development

institutions to foster both mitigating disasters and climate adaption & environment hazards.

The productivity and sustainability of a land-use system is determined by the interaction between land resources, climate and human activities. Especially in the face of climate change and variability, selecting the right land uses for given biophysical and socio-economic conditions, and implementing sustainable land management, are essential for minimizing land degradation, rehabilitating degraded land, ensuring the sustainable use of land resources (i.e. soils, water and biodiversity) and maximizing resilience.

Sustainable Land Management is based on four principles:

- It regulates regional water regime supported to targeted policy and institutional support, including the catchment & command area development of incentive mechanisms for land & water management adoption and income generation at the local level;
- Best land-user-driven and participatory approaches to prevent degradation; accelerates to local biodiversity conservation
- innovation in Application with integrated use of natural resources on farms and at the ecosystem services and scale; and
- Multilevel, multi-stakeholder involvement and partnerships at all levels — land users, technical experts and policy-makers, convergence, collaboration& cooperation.

Moreover Linking-learning-livelihoods, skill development and raising farmers income that would be envisaged:

- Preventing degradation, drudgery of women and minimize adverse impacts of drought, deforestation and distress migration
- This would help facilitate to FPOs/farmers collectives for accelerating sustainable consumption & production and belter eco-prenures along protection and conservation of local biodiversity & commons, help to undertake massive forestry beyond forest
- It includes a range of sustainable Land Management with ecological enhancement-related programmes and approaches,
- These initiatives would support to 21 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), cutting across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and 17, it is a contributing agency to four other SDG indicators having a strong comparative advantage posed by the SDGs.
- Activities are under way for multi-level collaboration in the development of indicators for land; land degradation; soils; drought; sustainable forests and mountains; sustainable land management; water efficiency and scarcity; women's access to land ownership; food losses and waste; and others

The world needs to produce an estimated 60 percent more food by 2050 to ensure global food security, and it must do so while conserving and enhancing the natural resource base. Water is a major input in the provision of food — from production in the field through all the steps in the value chain. Water is also required to meet personal and household needs, for energy and industrial production, and to maintain important water-dependent ecosystems and ecosystem services. With demand and competition for water on the rise, however, the planet's water resources are under increasing stress due to climate change, poor management and pollution.

Farmers and women collectives must be at the centre of any process of change in agriculture system. Through appropriate policies that provide incentives and ensure effective governance, farmers can be empowered to conserve biodiversity, protect ecosystems and minimize environmental impacts. This doubling farmers income can be able to meet the needs of present community and would look further the demands of future generations in go despite fiscal melt-down, climate change and variability. Food and water security is the top most priority around the globe and south Asia that needs a broad-based partnership as SDGs envisages to demonstrate at local.

Doubling farmer's income along with sustained livelihood embodies four fundamental attributes;

- possession of human capabilities (such as education, skills, health, sanitation & psychological orientation);
- access to tangible and intangible assets like land, water and forest;
- the existence of economic activities like marketing of products;
- environmental sustainability.

Again, it is felt that resources can't not be preserved, protected or kept for further use unless appropriate and viable alternative livelihood options are created at micro level in contiguous nature with wise use & investment. Therefore, the emphasis should be on understanding the needs of vulnerable and marginalised population and promote judicious use of resources to meet the needs in order to improve their livelihood condition. Food, water and livelihood security status derived from various sources of the household and the individual should be on the basis of pro-poor initiatives and avenues. There ought to be a social perspective focusing on the enhancement of people's capabilities to institutionalize and secure their own livelihood keeping reserve for future generations with added income.

There is great opportunity in this concept of sustainable land management, ecological prosperity & to double the farmer's income in order to utilizing ecologically sensitive indigenous and alternative methods for land & water utilization, rejuvenation followed by adoption green energy, biomass conservation can help to achieve important prerequisites for environmental sustainability & livelihoods empowerment on enterprising mode. This is possible with sustained catalyzation with:

- Good Convergence and Broad-Based Partnership with community and multiple stakeholders towards Demonstrating Community-based Rural Livelihoods enhancing income linking Water-Energy-Ecology-Empowerment project and
- To Reduce drudgery, health hazards and promotion sustainable livelihoods
- To Empower community youths and women towards self-resilient towards gearing greening and green energy and promote Eco-prenures for good income and self-dignity

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Statement submitted by International Kolping Society, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

KOLPING INTERNATIONAL and the world community share a clear responsibility.

In 2016, there were at least 65.6 million people worldwide who had been forcibly displaced for many different reasons. Many fled their home country and crossed international borders, seeking safety in neighbouring countries. Eighty-four per cent of refugees were living in poor and middle-income countries at the end of 2016. Only a minority of refugees arrived in Europe, as many of them lacked the financial resources to flee over long distances, the routes were in a poor condition or unsafe and border barriers made it impossible for them to go any further. In 2016 alone, far more than 5,000 refugees drowned while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The real figures may be much higher. Given the humanitarian needs of displaced people, it is critical to combat the root causes of forced displacement.

The root causes of displacement include wars and conflicts, as well as religious, economic and political issues. Famines, discrimination, persecution and violation of human rights, social exclusion and forced displacement, land grabbing, misery and exploitation and the consequences of climate change are other reasons why people leave their homes.

In his encyclical letter LAUDATO SI' (2015) Pope Francis expressed concern about the care for our "common home" and called for social inclusion and for an environmental, economic and social ecology as part of an integral ecology. He explained his concern for our common home, inter alia, with the following concerning trends:

- Highly developed technology that is used, particularly by globally acting companies for purposes of domination and to increase people's dependency.
- A globalization of indifference marked by overconsumption and an excessive lifestyle, which result in poverty and environmental problems.
- The waste of natural resources and damage to the environment brought about by overconsumption and capitalist exploitation.
- The overconsumption of natural resources due to capitalist exploitation.

Personality, subsidiarity and solidarity are guiding principles of Catholic Social Teaching for a social order that corresponds to the Christian concept of the human person. The Teachings explain who must bear which responsibility and when. On the basis of its self-image, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL expects itself and the world community to assume responsibility in combating the root causes of displacement.

Firstly, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL sees the responsibility of the individual: Every individual must question his or her consumerist behaviour, especially those living in the industrialized countries. Anyone can promote or support projects and activities that aim at improving the life of the needy in their home countries. Anyone can speak up on behalf of those who are oppressed and at risk, who go hungry or are persecuted and anyone can defend their interests in public.

Secondly, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL sees its own responsibility as an international NGO: KOLPING INTERNATIONAL is making its contribution as an international Catholic social association by calling upon governments to work for a just world economy and to pursue a foreign policy that is guided exclusively by humanitarian principles and the respect for human rights.

Thirdly, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL recognises the responsibility of religious communities like the Catholic Church, which must play an exemplary role

in society. Pope Francis underlines repeatedly that migration flows must be seen as a structural reality of our modern times and that our focus must be placed on developing programs that combat the root causes of displacement. At the same time we must not lose track of changes in the countries of origin. This can, for example, be achieved by church-related development cooperation in the countries concerned. It must continue to fight for the establishment of just and democratic structures, for the protection of human rights and it must encourage Christians to become politically active.

Of great importance is, fourth, the responsibility of the economy and its leaders: The economy must free itself from the dogma of capitalist exploitation and consider the consequences of a logic of permanent growth and respond to it. The fundamental concerns of people must be put at the centre of attention again. This implies that production processes must not include natural resources as a no-cost factor. Non-renewable resources must be dealt with in a responsible way. Those who believe that the principle of "ever more consumption" can solve the problems of humanity are wrong.

Finally, fifth, KOLPING INTERNATIONAL considers the responsibility of the world community: Each individual state is obliged to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a consistent way and without delay. Bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements must not exclusively follow the primacy of capitalist exploitation, but they must respect the human rights and consider the common good. Free trade agreements must not erect a protective barrier to keep products from emerging economies and developing countries out. Trade barriers must be removed to give emerging markets and developing countries a chance to sell their products on world markets. Environmental, economic, trade and development policies must ensure fair trade, sanction unfair trade and preserve and save resources. Government development projects must be based exclusively on the needs of the population in the recipient countries. Development aid must be granted to governments only if they observe democratic and humanitarian criteria. No funds shall be granted to totalitarian and corrupt regimes. People in developing countries and newly industrialized countries must have a chance to become part of international value chains and not to depend on exporting their raw materials only. Private investments in these regions must observe the rules of decent work and aim at true development with a broad impact on the region and the local population and building up a civil society.

The United Nations has a special responsibility when it comes to managing and preventing the root causes of displacement on a global scale. Member states must share an interest in combating the root causes of displacement and no state must shirk its responsibilities.

A long-term, far-sighted and peaceful settlement of regional conflicts can be achieved only if the United Nations is put in a better position to carry out their important tasks.

Each and every individual state must base its foreign policies on the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Any acts of war must be sanctioned by the world community. Arms trade with crisis regions must be consistently prohibited.

More and more, people are forced to flee their country because of environmental destruction and climate change. This is why the world community must commit itself to the Paris Climate Agreement and implement appropriate measures without any further delay in order to limit the effects of global warming. The world community may not relent in its effort to convince those countries that have not yet signed the Agreement or that wish to withdraw from it of the importance of this Agreement.

Land grabbing must be consistently halted. Governments must not sell land to the detriment of its own populations. Poor people and smallholder farmers must be supported in their efforts to assert their rights in their land with documents (land title). The world community must call upon governments and globally acting companies not to get involved in any form of land grabbing.

In the 19th century Adolph Kolping wrote: "Those who show courage, will encourage others!" The world community needs this courage today to tackle the root causes of displacement with long-term strategies. It is important to note that humanity is responsible for its deeds. Root causes of displacement are the result of human behaviour and action. That is why we are all held accountable for the state of our world.

Everyone in the world community, including ourselves, must shoulder responsibility. We call upon everyone to live a responsible life, to act responsibly and to be courageous when it comes to combating the root causes of migration and displacement!

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Statement submitted by EIVHGI — Europäeischer Interessenverband — Handel — Gewerbe — Industrie, World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

National Foundations for Economic Development and Crises Prevention (ECOFOUND)

An Innovative Approach for the financing of social protection policies, particularly of farmer- and crafts- families in less privileged economies.

This statement primarily intends to contribute to "Family issues, policies, and programmes".

Safeguarding the rights, interests, and competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises, including crafts and farms, is paramount for sustainable economic and social development and for the eradication of poverty, particularly of families running small farms and smaller enterprises in less developed countries. Additional funds are urgently needed for the financing of supporting programs. Our recommendations herein would decisively contribute to feasible solutions and, at the same time, optimize government spending of taxes and limit government debt policy.

There are some estimated 450 million smallholder farming households (representing 2 billion people) relying to various degrees on agricultural production for their livelihoods. They represent the largest client segment by livelihood of those living on less than $2 a day, though they significantly contribute to the well-being of their societies.

We recommend that Civil Society Organizations that work to safeguard the rights, interests, and competitiveness of Smaller Enterprises and which enjoy Special Consultative Status at United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) initiate the registration of ECOFOUNDS as legal entities. Members shall be all persons who are obliged to collect the VAT or comparable taxes for the Governments.

A VAT, like most taxes, distorts what would have happened without it. Because the price for someone rises, the number of goods traded decreases. Correspondingly, some people are worse off by more than the government is made better off by tax income. That is, more is lost due to supply and demand shifts than is gained in tax. This is known as a deadweight loss. If the income lost by the economy is greater than the government's income; the tax is inefficient. It must be noted that a VAT and a Non-VAT has the same implications on the microeconomic model.

Basic sustainable financing of ECOFOUNDS shall be small parts of tax revenues (VAT, Finance Transaction Tax, Currency Transaction Tax). ECOFOUNDS shall be governed by SME Supporting National Organizations, e.g. Chambers of Commerce and other Entrepreneur- and International Associations. These foundations need a sustainable annual income for providing efficient services for the beneficiaries. Sources of funding shall be: 0,5% to 1% (in our examples 0,6%) of the VAT and Employer Tax revenues of a Member Country, Alternatively and/or in addition 0,05% of a Currency Transaction Levy (CTL), Funds of European Union Programmes (e.g. COSME, HORIZON), the IFC — International Finance Corporation, other Entrepreneur Organizations, and Charity Foundations. In order to achieve political acceptance, it is conditional to prove that such tax revenues are been allocated in accordance with tax optimization criteria, e.g. Pareto optimality.

Organizational Structure of ECOFOUNDS

Based on legislation in the host country, ECOFOUNDS should have the following main bodies: General Assembly Members, who shall be Delegates of Chambers of Commerce, NGOs that have VAT paying members, and Consumer Organizations; Board of Directors to be appointed by the General Assembly; Chief

Executives, appointed by the Board of Directors; and a Control Board, appointed by the Government.

Calculation of national VAT revenues

For the purpose of calculating the VAT revenues, the C-Efficiency Ratio is illustrated: The C-efficiency ratio is the most commonly used indicator for evaluating the revenue performance and overall efficiency of the VAT system. It is simply the ratio of actual revenues to theoretical revenues from a perfectly enforced tax, levied at a uniform rate on all consumption.

VAT= GDP (PPP) * C, %AIF= VAT*0.003 (three per mill), VAT=Value Added Tax, C= C efficiency, GDP(PPP)= Gross Domestic Product (purchasing Power Parity), AIF= Annual Income of the Foundation, Formula: AIF= (GDP*C)*%AIF.

Example

VAT Revenue (in billion USD): 353.12

AIF — Annual Income ECOFOUND: 1.05936

The annual revenues of an Indian ECOFOUND would be approx. 1 billion and 60 million USD

Tentative Conclusions

The implementation of the ECOFOUNDS incurs no significant fiscal impacts on the national budget, as funds remain in the country of origin, to be used for developing of Entrepreneurs, particularly SMEs and Crafts.

ECOFOUNDS is an effective ("Pareto — improved") contribution to economic growth and employment policy,

ECOFOUNDS would be qualified to obtain financing of the IFC — International Finance Corporation and Word Bank, EIB European Investment Bank and other SMEs supporting Organizations,

ECOFOUNDS would have a sustainable income, enabling them to extend micro-financing to the smallest companies without bank guarantees and at low interest rates,

We also recommend introducing a Currency Transaction Levy ("Tobin Tax"), which would further strengthen the financial possibilities of the IFEDT with approx. one to three billion USD.

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Please recycle

Statement

Facing the Challenges on Social Protection Measures for Social Inclusion within Traditional Societies

Introduction

Social protection measures are rights-based societal prerequisites duly reflected within articles 22 to 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 9 to 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16th December 1996, which State parties and international cooperation are called upon to uphold and enforce.

Social protection measures have also been recently addressed by the 8th ordinary session of the labour and social affairs commission of the African Union, held from 11–15 April 2011 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, under the Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers 2011–2015 (SPIREWORK). Under the theme "Promoting Employment for Social Cohesion and Inclusive Growth", the SPIREWORK makes references to key priority area 4 and 10 of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation of September 2004 for "establishing, improving and strengthening the social protection schemes and extending them to workers and their families currently excluded, as well as occupational safety, health and hygiene" and "extending increased coverage of social protection to the informal sector of the economy". It also considers the pressing needs of under employment and labour strategies that seek to give the informal sector necessary support through easing the administrative, legal, fiscal and other obstacles to its growth, and developing an extension of social security and social protection to cover rural and informal workers, as highlighted within the Windhoek Social Policy Framework for Africa of October 2008.

Though with the varying normative frameworks and innovative schemes for better protection of informal and rural workers in Africa and other vulnerable developing countries highlighted within the SPIREWORK, there still exist in-depth worries that need acute consideration with respect to customs and traditions vis-à-vis community social inclusion priorities for men, women, boys and girls and as well, protection measures within the community belief systems.

The Traditional Mind Frame on Gender Roles for Social Inclusion and Protection

Traditional belief systems give the man a dominant and decisive role within family circles, which demands more financial autonomy on his part and undermines the financial potency of the woman, whose social role is better appreciated in humble matrimonial chores. There are exemplary practise in more advanced countries, such as in Finland, where there are important social protection and care institutions, including public child care systems, long maternity and parental leaves and right for to return to the same job after such leaves, thereby, granting the protected possibility of women to meaningfully and equally enjoy both public and private socially inclusive lifestyles. However, these practices differ from those in poorer countries valuing their community traditions.

Gender sensitive and responsive social protection benefits and services for low income countries should be carefully studied and their feasibility within community contextual dimensions, which are connected to prioritized individual and community needs rather copying examples that are both psychologically and socioeconomically unsuitable for concerned community and individuals, should be analysed.

There are examples of social security schemes that include diverse insurance engagement measures that have been adopted in African countries. For example, the respective National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and National Insurance Scheme (NIS) of Ghana and Namibia; Guinea Bissau and Tanzania with their respective Abota Village Insurance Scheme (ABIS), and Community Health Fund (CHF); and Senegal, where the finance institution PAMECAS has launched a successfully integrated micro health insurance provision into its micro loans services, with the potential of reaching 300,000 members and their families. However, such schemes may still not address the social inclusion and security concerns of those informal and rural workers who prioritize more immediate needs such as food, housing, education and health for themselves and their families.

Some traditional gender roles require men to be financially responsible for the family and for funeral rites of certain family members of the wife or spouse, thus requiring him to earn and save more towards such eventualities. Construing gender sensitive social protection measures and addressing inequalities and challenges for social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies without effective consideration of the involved community traditional nuances may be problematic and naively accepted and/or promoted by target benefiting persons and populations.

By the SPIREWORK, through which the African Union campaigns for considerate social protection measures for informal and rural economy workers, it is noteworthy that work in the informal economy is by definition, work with no social protection, thereby bringing in a critical aspect of social exclusion. Generally, less than 10% of workers in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to effective social security opportunities which are employment related contributory social protection measures, while in other developing countries 10% to 50% of workers are able to access social security. It is also considerable that in most African countries, only a small minority of people are covered by formal employment related social insurance schemes, thus leaving the larger majority of the populations behind, even though governments through the SDGs are committed to leave no-one behind. However, the African rural and informal working populations receiving social insurance benefits do so without any consultative role in assessing what social protection needs are supposed to be prioritised on a case-by-case basis, towards addressing their ethical social inclusion values.

Proposed Measures for Inclusive Social Protection Towards Social Inclusion within Traditional Societies

The social protection towers for addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies need to reflect the fundamental essence of the agenda itself, which should be a precondition to the realisation of all human rights through its capacity to empower all women, men, girls and boys to meaningfully and freely participate in social, political and economic life of their societies.

Social protection policies should acutely consider societal and community gender roles, wherein all household parties and their responsibilities with respect to considerate and accepted community norms, are addressed and, as such, regulated within their wage and fiscal social wellbeing inclusion policies and plans.

Community education and peer counselling, especially for informal or rural economy workers and their households, are undeniable tools that should complement formal education schemes, for example by combining courses of sociology and social work, economics, statistics, health and nutrition, psychology, law and public management sciences into a multi-disciplinary knowledge obtaining endeavour for enhancing social protection. This should promote inclusive and comprehensive,

interactive and interpersonal assessments and evaluations on individual understanding and perceptivity for social inclusion, towards building the social protection policies that are to benefit the individual. An exemplary ideological support and way forward could be the TRANSFORM innovative learning package initiative on the administration of national social protection floors in Africa. TRANSFORM has, as its prime objective, to build critical thinking and capacities of policy makers and practitioners at national and decentralized levels to improve the design, effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems.

In addressing the issue of social exclusion with regards to informal or rural economy workers, firm national consolidator frameworks with the local and informal economy sectors should institutionalise comprehensive and evaluative social protection ceilings with the rural or informal economy leaders, as well as community checks and balances ombudspersons networks within such informal and local sectors. Such frameworks and ombudspersons' networks should reliably harness informal working relationships and principles within local economies and should regularly assess the individual and community social protection needs of the informal or rural economy workers.

Conclusion

To leave no-one behind also implies understanding and considering the sociocultural complexity of individuals and their communities. Efforts should therefore address and reflect the best interest of the individual.

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Statement submitted by International Association of Charities, Caritas Internationalis, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Congregation of the Mission, Dominican Leadership Conference, Fondazione Proclade Internazionale — Onlus, International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Charity Federation, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, UNANIMA International, VIVAT International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-17774 (E) 291018

Please recycle

Statement

As the 57th Commission for Social Development considers "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies", the United Nations Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH), the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), and the International Coalition to End Homelessness encourage the Commission to address the multifaceted problem of housing exclusion and street homelessness. These concerns leave so many behind and must be solved, with specific indicators, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We urge the Commission to focus on unsheltered homelessness and access to adequate housing in its discussion of social protection policies by:

Calling upon Member States to provide adequate shelter to all persons regardless of gender, age, disability, legal, institutional, or socio-economic status that is safe, secure, and accessible; and to measure and monitor the extent of homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness;

Urging regional and global stakeholders to promote efforts to assess progress toward ending homelessness in a way that is meaningful and consistent across all countries, including support for practices of enumerating the homeless population, particularly the unsheltered population, to provide a benchmark from which Member States can mark progress toward the progressive right to housing.

The United Nation's Working Group to End Homelessness is a group of NGOs that evidence a concern for poor and marginalized people around the world in their programs and advocacy. We are dedicated to the alleviation and eventual elimination of unsheltered homelessness. In our efforts to achieve this goal, we work with the United Nations, global platforms to end homelessness, and academic centers such as the Institute for Global Homelessness at DePaul University, Chicago, Il, USA.

Unsheltered homelessness affects all groupings - men and women, families with children, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities. It occurs in most nations — wealthy and poor — across the globe. It has severe negative impacts on both individuals and on cities.

Several United Nations agreements already acknowledge the key role of housing and shelter.

- Sustainable Development Goal 11, indicator 11.1: "By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums."
- The 2016 New Urban Agenda: "We will take positive measures to improve the living conditions of homeless people with a view of facilitating their full participation in society and to prevent and eliminate homelessness."
- The 1996 Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements: "... everyone will have adequate shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services, facilities and amenities."

Despite clear recognition that housing, and shelter are central to meeting human potential, existing Sustainable Development Goals and declarations do not specifically mention street homelessness and do not include clear goals to prompt action and enable accountability. A renewed focus on this issue, a clear indicator in Sustainable Development Goal 11, and discussion across forums and agreements would play a key role in remedying this to ensure no one is left behind as implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development moves forward.

Adequate housing is a core component of social protection. Social protection floors are designed to protect individuals and countries from shocks and their stresses by providing an adequate, basic standard of living to vulnerable populations. In addition to ensuring a basic income and access to healthcare, housing must be considered as a key component of ensuring individuals have a basic standard of living. According to "Social Protection: A Coherent Strategy for Shared Prosperity," the CSocD56 Civil Society Declaration, "it is patently clear that people cannot make meaningful contributions to societal development if they are... fighting simply for basic survival." People experiencing street homelessness in every corner of the globe face negative outcomes related to mortality, health, ability to earn a basic income and other basic elements of survival.

In conclusion, the WGEH and the IGH urge member states to take steps to remedy the exclusion of street homelessness in this global debate by situating the issue within the conversation around social protection floors, and by exploring the challenges street homelessness poses to meeting the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. We call for a clear, global measurement of street homelessness; a shared goal to reduce and ultimately end street homelessness; and support for a global movement to spread effective strategies across member states. Ensuring social protection requires a roof, not just a floor!

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Statement submitted by Europe Business Assembly Limited, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

Education and international networks as pillars of Inclusive Social Development

There are no broad recipes to guarantee inclusive social development. Even when sheer economic development is attained, it happens often that no "trickle down" effect occurs, and the beneficiaries of the development are the few and not the majority of the population.

This is mostly true in the Africa region, where our organization is consistently working to promote growth with social inclusion.

Our field experience shows that two main aspects are critical to achieving inspiring results: Education and International Networks.

Education has a multiplier function. It not only gives children knowledge on a variety of subjects but also allows them to learn the basics of social life, from respect for the rule of law to sexuality and conceptive practices. That means that individuals can make better informed decisions, which are the result of a choice, and not a simple compliance with incomprehensible traditions or habits.

It is through education that one can understand the benefits of certain health practices, demographic trends, political participation and economic rationality.

Thus, the value of education resides not primarily in the transference of knowledge, but in the ability to inspire reasoning and to understand "what's going on". It is this valuable aspect of education that could be advanced as one of the main factors to guarantee an inclusive social development.

In the end, this is the purpose of education. To create an inclusive and developed society.

One of the earliest educative systems to have been well described is the Ancient Athene's. This model ends up resulting in a model for life, a weltanschauung. The vision of education embodied in each community corresponds to the vision for the society itself.

The Paideia, immortalized in Werner Jaeger's voluminous book, refers to the formation of the ideal person for the Athenian Polis. Education focuses on the individuals and their development, oriented yet in a sense of creating the example of Aretê, the Kalos Kagathos. Centred on the individual, the certainty is that Paideia's education is teleological, that is, the individual is formed with a goal, to be an archetype citizen, as proclaimed in the Homeric poems. Paideia simultaneously incorporated a theoretical and practical knowledge, which was translated into a series of subjects focused on the personal and social improvement of each one, mixing spiritual and physical values such as bravery, honour and strength to be found in a temperate balance. Curricula included subjects such as rhetoric, grammar, and philosophy, as well as arithmetic and medicine. In addition, the Kalos Kagathos should also cultivate physical virtues, so *should be trained in gymnastics. Finally,* morality and conduct should be consolidated by the study of music and poetry.

There is thus a very complete education of the Athenian citizen, with a view to the expected social role play would be achieved.

In other countries and parts of the world, the same approach, with different designations, can be found.

The notion is always that, through education, a coherent and inclusive society can be designed.

Renaissance man, the "uomo universale" is defined by the contemporary Alberti as "a uomo può fare tutte le cose, vuole". This statement sums up the fundamental idea of Renaissance humanism — that humans are unlimited in their capacity for development. Thus, the individual should achieve all the knowledge and develop their capabilities as much as possible. The Renaissance man is one who develops his skills in all areas of achievement: intellectual, artistic, social and physical.

These are two examples of educational models that, although imperfectly and with limitations, tried to create humanistic societies, at least for those who were included in their midst.

The point is that education creates a framework for inclusion in society. Of course, we cannot be anachronistic. The models of Athens and Renaissance were not completely inclusive, as we define it today: women, slaves and strangers were wrongly excluded. The argument is that they tried through a focus in education to achieve what was seen at time as inclusiveness.

The lack of education tends to project brutal and nasty societies, the emergence of education creates more perfect societies, even if with errors.

Generally, it is expected that the educated individual is more exigent towards the political and economic power in what concerns the social evolution of a country, and is armed with better aptitudes to benefit from economic growth. Those are two faces of the same coin. To demand and to learn to benefit from development.

Those were the basic reasons that led our organization to focus on education as a way to achieve truly inclusive social development.

Therefore, we created an international academic association of over 200 University Chancellors, Scientists and Researchers that aims for Excellence, Innovation and Accessibility, and is committed to disseminating these core values through its worldwide community. Leaders of higher education, institutions, colleges, researchers, scientists, teachers, and representatives of higher education are the fundamental agents of change for a more inclusive society.

The network further delves in the second aspect that contributes to an inclusive social development: the creation of international networks. The free exchange of ideas and practices is paramount to the establishment of an innovative environment that allows or tends to allow everyone to participate in development. The more connections, the greater progress and inclusion.

In sum, our proposition is that the best mechanism to achieve Inclusive Social Growth is to exploit the benefits of global education and international networks that enhance the possibilities of knowledge and innovation.

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Statement submitted by People of Good Heart, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES AND challenges TO SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH FISCAL, WAGES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION.

The gulf between the "haves" and the "haves not" in societies around the world is at alarmingly high rate, Nigeria, as a test case, assumes a greater gulf between the rich and poor.

According to the leveller, quoting from an English man's birthright: " seeing all are by nature sons of Adam, and from him have legitimately derived a natural priority right and freedom, therefore England and indeed all nations and all particular persons in every nations, notwithstanding the difference of laws and governments, ranks and degrees, ought to be alike, free and estated in their natural liberties and to enjoy the just rights and prerogative of mankind."

Wherewith heir apparent and commoners, by right, are equal with the lords, from the above quotation it is therefore right to say that an egalitarian society is what is desirable. To achieve this goal, the society should endeavor to practically engage in social, fiscal and wages policies that will tend towards bridging the gap between the rich and poor and minimizing their inequalities. The following steps are suggested to be taken.

1. SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: The social status in the society has elevated the rich to a position where the poor cannot stand. The poor are made to serve the rich and as such the inequality is conspicuous. Imagine a situation where elections are held for a position of authority such as president or a governor of a State, and political parties ordered any party members that are interested in serving tin political offices to pay a huge sum of money that cannot be afforded by the poor, thereby widening the margin of inequality between the two categories of people. This would be, very outrageous and would not help to bridge the gap as expected. Similarly, when picking positions of authority such as ministers, commissioners, special assistants and the like, the elites are considered first, but in a situation where this gap is to be bridged, the common man in the society should be given priority. A situation where a person with lofty ideas that will improve the standard of living of the populace is neglected due to the fact that he or she is poor, and a man with no idea is picked due to the fact that the former cannot afford the stipulated amount to be contributed to the parties. Democracy is a government of the people by the people, and not government of few elites. Steps should be taken towards promoting activities that will include the common man in the ruling government.

The grassroot people should be given priority in the selection of people in offices.

2. WAGES: Wages are the amount of stipend/money received by an individual for services rendered. The highest paid worker should be the person that puts in the highest energy/ hours in his/her work. This is not so in the society now, hour/ energy is not given priority in the paying wages/salary, what is given priority is the level of education and the position of the worker in the society. The salary of an ordinary councillor in the society is higher than the factory worker, whereas the former may be just putting very minimum hour in his daily work, as compared to a factory worker who may work for about 6–8 hours in a day. In order to promote equality and discourage inequality, priority should be given to the nature of work being done and the hours, on the job. Training should also be encouraged so that workers may advance to higher positions, thereby increasing their wage. Moreover,

when government at federal, state and local levels are appointing people to political offices, the masses should be given priority.

3. FISCAL POLICIES: Fiscal policies in the country should be so tailored to favor the masses as against the few elites. The peasant farmers and all other low-income earners should be exempted from payment of taxes in order to boost their income, appropriate taxes should be placed on the high income earners and those who are used to luxurious life, people who are engaged in manufacturing and extractive business should be made to pay high taxes. This should be extended to high income yielding ventures.

The situation of people who are building gigantic buildings all over the country are being made to pay token as tax should be discouraged. What is obtainable in the advanced country should be spread to all countries in the world. Allowance or stipends should be given to the unemployed, the widows and all other less privileged people such as persons with disabilities and victims of disasters. Discounts should also be given to the people on every item purchased to enable a better standard of live and to reduce the gap of inequality in the society.

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Statement submitted by Womankind Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

Womankind Worldwide is pleased to submit a written submission on the Commission's overall theme for this year's session: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies.

Womankind is an international women's rights organization working to transform the lives of women worldwide. We work with partner organizations across five focus countries in Africa and Asia, and we carry out policy and advocacy globally, with a view to ending violence against women and girls, promoting and securing women's economic rights, and increasing women's rights organizations and movements' access to and participation in political spaces.

Our unique work on women's economic rights is of particular relevance to the Commission's priority theme for 2019 as it focuses on highlighting and tackling the structural and deeply rooted challenges and inequalities that jeopardize women's most fundamental rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to health and to social protection, all enshrined in the UN Economic Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

One of our flagship publications on this issue is a policy briefing: Rights and Realities: a briefing on women and economy, which we have based this submission on.

Whilst the discourse on women's economic empowerment has increased attention on some of the critical issues that affect women's rights, it has also so far failed to consider and address the broader framework of economic barriers that have a direct impact on women's rights. In particular, women's economic empowerment is often seen as an instrument to achieve economic growth rather than a worthy goal in itself. "Investing in women" has been largely used to promote initiatives aimed at expanding women's job opportunities, skills and access to finance. However, the current approach does not address the root causes of women's economic inequality. This is particularly the case in the case of fiscal, wage and social protection policies.

Globally, only about 47% of women are in paid employment, compared to 72% of men, and they earn only 60–75% of men's wages. The overwhelming majority of women living in countries where Womankind's partners work are employed in the informal economy, without benefitting from living wages, paid maternity and sick leave and stable and secure contracts. The situation is worse for those women who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination due to their class, race, sexual orientation or migrant status, amongst other dimensions. Women employed formally, for example in factories that are part of global supply chains, also face difficult working conditions and low wages, sexual harassment, and a lack of ability to join trade unions. In addition, despite being necessary to all human activities, including market activities, unpaid care and domestic work remain largely invisible in the eyes of policymakers.

Given such structural gender inequalities, feminist economists have questioned whether women's inclusion in a discriminatory labour market is the right solution to tackle their subordinate position in society and secure their economic rights.

"Investing in women" is part of the solution but it is not the solution and more needs to be done to make the economy work for women, and tackle the structure inequalities across fiscal, wage and social protection policies and strategies.

A critical enabler of increased investment to fund gender equality policies and programmes is progressive tax revenue, both globally and nationally. While this is a global issue, developing countries are losing the most. There is an urgent need for

national and global tax reform to increase the amount of revenue that can be raised from wealthy taxpayers. In particular, raising taxes from transnational corporations is critical for developing countries: according to the IMF, corporate income tax makes up 16% of government revenue in developing countries compared to just over 8% in high income countries.

Another issue of particular importance to developing countries is the indiscriminate use of tax incentives to attract foreign businesses, for example those granted with the setup of Special Economic Zones or export processing zones.

At national level there are possibilities for governments to improve the progressivity of the income tax system and shifting the tax burden away from consumption, which affects those on lower incomes the most, towards wealth and property. In addition, as governments are encouraged to reform their tax systems, there is a need to identify and remedy implicit gender bias which arises when tax policy interacts with gender inequality.

Interventions to realize women's economic rights need to seek structural change in the way our economies run as well as improving opportunities and conditions for women. As the Commission considers pathways to Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies, we would like to put forward the following recommendations, all enshrined in international instruments, which we believe are urgent and feasible, and would set in motion substantial change towards the realization of women's economic rights and gender equality:

- Governments should measure unpaid care and domestic work and include it in national accounts and measurements of GDP.
- Governments should commit to assessing the impact proposed economic policies would have on gender equality and human rights and seek remedy in case of negative impacts.
- Governments should adopt progressive and gender-responsive tax regimes at national and global level to redistribute wealth and curb inequality.
- Governments should adopt universal systems of social protection that do not discriminate against women based on their employment patterns.
- Governments should adopt gender responsive budgeting to ensure adequate resources are invested to implement gender equality laws and plans by involving women's rights organizations and feminist economists in the process.
- Women's rights organizations should engage in economic policy debates, investing, where necessary, in training and support for staff on feminist economics and advocacy.
- Governments and multilateral institutions should ensure they respect, protect and fulfil women's economic rights, including promoting the participation of those women who are most affected by economic and social policies.
- The CEDAW committee should investigate governments' economic policies, including trade, investment and fiscal policies, for their impact on the progressive realization of women's rights.

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Statement submitted by International Council on Social Welfare, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

The topic identified by the Commission for Social development as a priority theme for its 57th session "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection polices" is most important in the context of collective and targeted efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion. Being a crucial part of the international discourse on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the discussion initiated by the Commission could improve setting priorities for finding optimal solutions in addressing the specific needs of people who are left behind in the development process.

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) — one of the oldest international NGOs in the world, which has celebrated its 90th anniversary recently — is keen to support the efforts of the Commission. The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development being implemented by ICSW along with its partner organizations focuses on inequality as one of the priority themes for concerted action among its members. We believe that a broader perspective on social policies suggested by the Commission, as well as consolidation of the discussion of the lessons learned at the national levels in addressing inequality and social exclusion could refine policy approaches in this field, broaden the options, and improve the effectiveness of public spending.

It is imperative to address the issue of inequality, including its structural drivers and multiple dimensions that can produce systematic disadvantages for some social groups, particularly the most vulnerable. High inequality has been detrimental for macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth. Reducing inequality within and among countries figures prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Without addressing the issue of inequality, it is hardly possible to achieve social inclusion because these two issues are closely linked.

To get appropriate and effective responses we need to go to the root of the problem, identifying multiple disadvantages that create inequalities, including inadequate education, poor work opportunities, social discrimination and lack of effective social protection increase income inequality. Other factors, including globalization-induced vulnerabilities disproportionally affect marginalized social groups and decreasing their resilience and capacity to withstand the effects of adversity such as economic or environmental shocks. Families and households most at risk live in the situations where short term-survival becomes a paramount goal. Lack of assets or entitlements make such people chronically poor, depriving them of opportunities to cope with stresses and adverse effects. Given that inequalities are multidimensional, the policies to address them should be multidimensional, forward-looking, well- thought- out. Such policies ought to be attuned to local circumstances and well-funded. Otherwise, the goal of 'leaving no one behind' may stay an empty promise.

The existing cross-country evidence confirms that when the benefits of economic growth are widely shared in society poverty reduction efforts are much more successful. Integrating macroeconomic and social policies, with due care to the distributional policy aspects, is a pre-requisite for inclusive growth and reduction of inequality. The existing obstacles are usually country-specific and can include a variety of factors, such as disparities in productivity growth linked to the regional inequality; unequal spatial and social access to services (e.g. lack of access to financial services); labour market "duality" related to inequality of formal and informal or regular and non-regular workers or different communities; and poorly designed fiscal redistribution. (International Monetary Fund. How to operationalize

inequality issues in country work. Washington D.C., June 2018, pp. 8–12). Beyond its impact on social cohesion, growing inequality negatively correlates with economic growth and harms opportunities. (https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/OECD2015-In-It-Together-Chapter1-Overview-Inequality.pdf).

In this context the patterns and sources of economic growth coupled with coherent distributional policies strongly impact poverty reduction efforts and improve the changes of balancing economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

Gender inequality remains an unfortunate part of the existing social landscape of many countries. Women frequently encounter various barriers in accessing income, assets and services, and are disproportionally represented among the poor and disfranchised segments in society. Older women are particularly vulnerable bearing the brunt of double discrimination — as women and as older persons, and frequently lacking both income and equal access to public services. Without determined efforts at the national level to eliminate gender discrimination the quest for equality and empowerment of women cannot be successful. States must carry on targeted national efforts for gender equality, and ensure mainstreaming of a gender perspective in policies, programmes and budgets.

ICSW strongly believes that economic growth has to be fair to all members in society, particularly poorest segments, and must also create employment opportunities. The above-mentioned need to integrate macroeconomic and social policies could improve employment impact analysis aimed at creating or widening employment opportunities to ensure income-generating activities and eventual poverty reduction. Investment in human capital, promotion of universal education and health care, and ensuring social protection for all could create a win-win situation where such national spending is treated as investment which could accrue long-term social and economic benefits.

ICSW has a long history of advocacy and policy action on social protection. ICSW approaches social protection as a human right and an investment in people, seeing it as one of the proven ways for ending poverty, insecurity and exclusion. The need to provide social protection to all members in society, fostering social justice, social cohesion and resilience, is widely recognized internationally as an effective strategy for inclusive development. However, much more needs to be done in this regard at the national level through policy practice and advocacy.

According to the most recent World Social Protection Report, 2017–2019 published by ILO, only 45 per cent of the global population are effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit, while the remaining 55 per cent — comprising at least 4 billion people — are left unprotected. Coverage gaps are associated with a significant underinvestment in social protection, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Arab States, leaving people vulnerable to poverty, inequality and social exclusion across the life cycle.

In this light ICSW reiterates its support for ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202). This important normative document provides practical guidance for setting such floors and building comprehensive social security systems for all. Our organization strongly believes that addressing the issues of inequality and poverty reduction in a comprehensive manner requires linking human rights with social protection of individuals and communities. Social protection is a very important, truly vital element of progressive social policy attuned to the needs of people today and projected to the future. Universal social protection is an important enabling factor conducive to protecting human rights, developing human potential and reducing income inequalities. Countries have a responsibility to guarantee at least a basic level of social security — a social protection floor.

Together with our partners from the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors ICSW affirms that a new high-level political initiative at the international level aimed at upholding social protection as a stand-alone issue would be highly desirable, particularly in the context of the intergovernmental policy dialogue and negotiations conducted at the United Nations in the wake of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such an outcome of the multilateral negotiations would make it possible to capitalize on the growing recognition of the significant role that social protection systems, including floors play in societies. In that vein, a proposal is hereby put forward by the ICSW to the UN Member States working within the remit of the 57th session of the Commission for Social Development, namely, to consider elaborating a draft ECOSOC resolution on social protection systems, including floors, as a necessary political step towards universal and comprehensive social protection for all. We urge the delegates to take into account the existing nexus between social protection and sustainable economic growth, noting that once social protection floors are established and become operational at the national level, the achievement of several core targets of the SDGs, starting with the reduction of poverty comes within reach.

We propose that the following elements, comprising basic social security guarantees and constituting a nationally defined set of essential goods and services, be included in such a resolution: a) essential health care, including maternity care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality; b) basic income security for children, assuring access to nutrition, education and care; c) basic income security for persons of active age, with particular attention to sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and d) basic income security for older persons.

The adoption of a dedicated UN ECOSOC resolution on social protection systems would be most important in focusing attention to some key issues pertinent to universal social protection, including floors, and its multiple benefits for society, thus reinforcing a political impact of ILO Recommendation No. 202. Such a dedicated resolution would become a testimony to the high-level political commitment to advance social protection at all levels. Such a resolution would fit well with the Follow-Up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and would be essential in embedding the social protection issues on the agenda of the Commission for Social Development, thereby facilitating national implementation and system-wide consistent monitoring of the agreed conclusions.

Many policy proposals in this area, including intellectual initiatives put forward by economists, philosophers, social scientists and other thinkers of quite different political persuasions are looking for innovative solutions in the provision of social welfare. One of the most daring and far-reaching proposals in this regard that drawn attention from governments, scholars, practitioners and media is the Universal Basic Income (UBI) proposal aimed at challenging many existing assumptions in social protection provision. Summarizing the essence of the UBI approach the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in his report to the Human Rights Council noted the following: "Rather than payments being partial, they guarantee a floor; instead of being episodic, payments are regular; rather than being needs-based, they are paid as a flat rate to all; they come in cash, rather than as messy in-kind support; they accrue to every individual, rather than only to needy households; rather than requiring that various conditions be met, they are unconditional; rather than excluding the well off, they are universal; and instead of being based on lifetime contributions, they are funded primarily from taxation" (General Assembly. Human Rights Council, Thirty-fifth session 6–23 June 2017. Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, A/HRC/3526 dated 22 March 2017).

While far from trivial and quite controversial, the Universal Basic Income initiative should not be simply brushed aside as prohibitively expensive and utopian. The experiences of countries that have introduced some pilot schemes and programmes based on the universal basic income concept need to be studied carefully. The changing nature of work, digitalization and growing automation facilitate new forms of employment, including temporary and non-standard employment with lower earnings for workers, bringing new challenges that require adequate responses. ICSW agrees with the conclusion of the Special Rapporteur that "the debates over social protection floors and basic income need to be brought together as they have vastly more potential if their synergies are recognized, rather than being ignored". The pros and cons regarding universal basic income need to be further explored and discussed, and the Commission for Social Development provides an appropriate venue in this regard. ICSW supports an approach which would consider synergizing the ideas of universal social protection floor and universal basic income in an optimal combination that suits the economic and social contexts specific to the member states.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by Congregations of St. Joseph, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

Introduction

This statement gathers insights emerging from work which Sisters of St. Joseph are doing around the globe with persons who are socially and economically excluded. The reports affirm the importance of universal access to the following basic benefits as a critical element in the creation of societies of fairness and inclusion: child and family benefits, maternity benefits and parental leave, unemployment support, education and skills-training, employment injury benefits, health protection and benefits in sickness as well as old-age, disability and survivors' benefits.

Social protection is not just good for individuals and families; it is good for nation-states and their economies. Exclusion from social protection means life-changing incidents such as sickness, job loss, low-wage jobs, injury or maternity can leave individuals and families so socially and economically excluded they are not able to recover. Social protection is also beneficial to the environment by avoiding the desperate circumstances which push communities into unsustainable and environmentally harmful patterns of extraction and production.

Purpose

Too often, the human right to social protection is undermined by competing economic, fiscal and political priorities. Reports submitted by Sisters of St. Joseph call for critical reflection and dialogue on how myopic government priorities can destabilize communities and stunt economic participation by marginalizing people from social protection. We call for government policies which recognize that investment in social protection is not a financial burden for governments but a mechanism for healthy social and economic development.

Context

From the 1940s through the 1960s, following the Great Depression and two World Wars, many of the advanced economies expressed their new-found sense of social solidarity through the emergence of the Welfare State. It was characterized by a new governmental emphasis on social protections such as unemployment benefits, child and family benefits, old age security and, in some places, medical benefits.

However, by 1980 a new international economic order had emerged, the so-called Washington Consensus. This approach focused on a market-driven approach to growth, emphasizing the reduction of public investment in social protection as well as reduced tax rates as mechanisms for maximizing economic growth. Due to this ideological shift, social protections were eroded as tax cuts, de-regulation and privatization were promoted in many advanced economies and Structural Adjustment Programs were imposed on many nation-states with developing economies.

Today, there is a growing sense across the globe that the current economic paradigm is no longer working for people or the planet. In many lower-income countries, weak social protections are bolstered only by remittances sent home from migrant workers, who are often exploited in their host country. In higher-income countries, real wage growth is slow, insecure work is becoming more prevalent, and local small business are choked out by trans-national corporations. The resulting high levels of inequality and socio-economic exclusion are contributing to a growing populism with racist overtones and ethnic intolerance.

Some governments and international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are now emphasizing the importance of inclusive

growth. It is not enough for a nation's Gross Domestic Product to grow; the benefits of the economy must be shared equitably even as we care for the planet.

Key Patterns of Concern

Most people living in poverty are working; they just do not make enough money to meet their basic needs. Comprehensive and universal social protection programmes are necessary because the global economy is not providing workers and their families with a wage which gives access to the resources and opportunities needed to participate fully in society.

While strongly affirming the need for social protection for all, reports from Sisters of St. Joseph around the globe highlight concerns for particular groups encountering barriers to social protection:

Workers in Informal Employment

Workers in informal employment tend to be hit doubly hard. Not only do they lack sufficient income, they are also far more likely to lack sufficient social protection especially where benefits are connected to employment-based contributory schemes in formal employment. This policy structure reinforces economic and social exclusion.

People Accessing Social Assistance

Austerity measures lead to cuts the social assistance. These cuts destabilize individuals and families who are barely surviving. Parents are left to make impossible choices between feeding their children or paying the rent, finding informal work or caring for their young children, giving up their children or living in dangerous places, getting prescriptions for a sick family member or losing their home.

Migrants

While unique factors are at play when an individual or family decides to migrate, these decisions are also influenced by global factors such as a lack of decent work, environmental pressures related to climate change as well as war, violence and hunger. When the rights of migrants are respected, they often make significant contributions to the society and economy of their host country as well as their country of origin through remittances.

Most migrants have the documentation needed to live and work in the host country. However, a significant number do not, often due to the chaotic circumstances surrounding their decision to leave their home. Typically, official immigration status is a prerequisite for basic social services. This leaves too many people in dangerous circumstances, vulnerable to exploitation and violence. Indeed, even when migrant workers have official immigration status, they are often excluded from social protections in practice if not in policy.

Persons Encountering Gender-based Barriers

Reports from our members pointed to barriers faced by women in accessing social protection. For instance, women often have primary child care and household responsibilities which can lead to lower participation in the formal labour force and higher participation in informal work. Even in the formal labour force, women tend to earn less than men. Given that social benefits are often tied to employment-based contributions, this often disadvantages women in accessing social protection.

In addition, transgender and X-gender persons are often among the most marginalized when it comes to accessing social benefits like housing, medical care

and food security. Partly, this can be attributed to marginalization from the formal labour force but also to wider patterns of discrimination which contribute to homelessness, violence and exclusion from community-led supports.

Persons Encountering Race- and Ethnicity-based Barriers

Likewise, racialized and ethnically-marginalized persons also experience marginalization from the formal labour force. Moreover, discrimination and fear of racist violence or verbal abuse can impede access to information, social networks, services and support programs.

Persons with Disabilities

Many nations do not have benefits in place for disabled persons. In other nations, benefits exist but the disability assessment process creates barriers to accessing the benefits. Reports from our members point to numerous examples of struggles with bureaucracies which wear people down to the point of despair. In some cases, there is so little public awareness of available benefits that people with disabilities do not know the programs exist.

Persons with mental health and addictions disabilities often face discrimination when they try to access services or use facilities, encountering stigma, prejudicial attitudes and negative stereotyping. Persons with these disabilities often experience barriers to formal employment as well as reduced access to social protections. Furthermore, in times of austerity, cuts to health care often hit these areas of care more harshly than others.

Older persons

While many nations are making significant progress in ensuring that older persons receive a pension, these benefits often remain too low to remove older persons from poverty. In particular, women and workers in informal work are too often marginalized from protection because the pension is based in employment-contribution schemes. At the same time, where tax-financed and means-tested pensions exist, they are rarely sufficient to provide social and economic protection.

Long-term care for older persons is another critical area of concern. In many nations, older persons in need of such services do not have access. Moreover, where access exists, the quality of care is often sub-standard and the caregivers too few.

Persons in Rural Areas

Reports indicated that small rural communities tend to have less access to high-quality education, health care, transportation and communication infrastructure and even, in some cases, less access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Rural areas need policies for social protection which are attentive to their differences and respond to their needs.

Our Vision

The Congregations of the Sisters of St. Joseph recognize the profound ways in which the global economy shapes the world, impacting both people and planet. We lament the gaping divide between rich and poor; we condemn the recklessness with which the planet is used and abused as a tool for economic growth; we challenge the narrowness with which corporate and political leaders serve economic growth at all costs. We call for a new economic model which serves both people and the planet, redistributing wealth to create equitable outcomes for all people while respecting the life cycles and limits of the planet.

Strong social protection policies not only protect people from social and economic exclusion, they also boost healthy economic consumption and production as people buy necessities and participate in the social events. Investment in social protection should not be viewed as a financial burden for governments but a mechanism for healthy economic development.

Recommendations

• Concerning Social and Policy Development for Social Protection Benefits

Acknowledge the intersecting forms of violence and discrimination in society rooted gender bias, racism, ableism, homophobia, ageism and classism.

Include race, gender, sexual orientation, abled/disabled and class analyses in policy-making as well as program implementation and delivery to minimize barriers to access.

Conduct public awareness campaigns around issues of racism, gender oppression, ableism, poor-bashing, xenophobia and scapegoating.

• Concerning Implementation of Social Protection Policies

Expand tax-financed social protections and create portable benefits to guarantee benefits to workers in the informal economy and people excluded from formal labour market.

Ensure adequacy of social protection benefits to move persons out of poverty.

Universal social protections create stronger social cohesion and support for programmes. When social protection programs are targeted at those living in poverty, public support for the programs tends to erode and stigmatizing those who receive the benefits tends to increase. Over time funding for targeted benefits tends to become less adequate and the quality of the programs deteriorates.

Learn from social protection projects implemented by Civil Society groups (especially new models of delivering mental health care) and implement these models on a large scale.

Conclusion

Just as social protection is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so too each nation can look to their disaggregated SDG achievement markers as helpful indicators of whether their social protection programs are sufficiently strong and comprehensive. Social protection measures should be viewed as key foundations for economic growth, not as competing interests to economic growth.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by International Federation of Associations of the Elderly, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-17786 (E) 011118 051118

Please recycle

Statement

Recognition, support and protection for vulnerable older persons

The International Federation of Associations of the Elderly has been campaigning for many years for changes to public policy that provide support and assistance to the most vulnerable people. There is an absolute need to establish a branch dedicated to the development of social and legal protections for older persons.

We are aware that the world today is undergoing a very strong demographic transformation and social protection systems must constantly evolve in order to guarantee everybody's human right to social security, because failure to adapt such systems would expose the population to poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

Today, only a structurally inclusive society can respond to the challenges of ageing with an appropriate and positive outlook; this naturally involves a paradigm shift.

This increase in the ageing population is at the heart of the thinking of many associations and professionals and must be a core political concern. As people age, some remain full of constructive energy but others lose some of their independence, potentially leading to dependence on others. However, despite this fact, all persons must be considered to be independent agents and respected in their decision-making while being assisted or even protected when their independence is reduced. It is therefore essential to approach this issue by also focusing on each person's feelings, needs, expectations, desires and values. Any affront to personal dignity is unacceptable and has potentially dramatic consequences that can lead, among other things, to long-term psychological problems and, in some cases, to suicide.

The abilities of people with physical and/or psychological limitations must be recognized, both for the people themselves and those close to them. Every older person considered to be vulnerable must benefit from "tailor-made" protection regimes adapted to their health problems or even disability, and tailor-made and sometimes temporary support.

Society must be aware that older persons and particularly women do not have sufficient income to be independent and many of them are forced to work until a very advanced age in order to lead a life with dignity. Indeed, there are vulnerable people who need daily help to be able to maintain a certain degree of independence. It should be possible to guarantee sufficient income security and medical and social care for all older persons, taking into account their needs and, of course, the increase in the cost of living. However, to reduce public spending, many countries are reducing their social security budgets, further exacerbating poverty and the inability of the most vulnerable to simply enjoy access to the assistance they need. This inadequate social protection is synonymous with poverty and deepens inequalities in society. Older persons are often treated as objects of social assistance rather than as subjects with rights. The current crisis further increases the vulnerability of older people and exposes them to deprivation of their rights and social exclusion.

That is why the International Federation of Organizations of the Elderly and its partners are in favour of a new legally binding instrument that would clarify the nature of the rights of older persons, especially as regards their unrestricted and unconstrained access to those rights. The rights of older persons would thus be included in a single document that would recognize the specific challenges associated with ageing and would serve as an anti-discrimination tool to eradicate negative age-related stereotypes.

From a legal perspective, while medical experts are often consulted, too little consideration is given to any psychosocial evaluation when it comes to obtaining an opinion on the relationship between a person's state of health and his or her ability to make a particular decision. Limited resources are in place for medical, psychosocial and environmental analyses of the decision-making or judgement capacities of a person who is temporarily or permanently vulnerable. Deprived of these concerted tools and faced with a need for an opinion, lawyers or doctors today must still analyse the capacities of the person concerned on a case-by-case basis, solely in accordance with their professional views and inner convictions. Hence the importance of a multidimensional assessment consisting not only of a medical examination but an approach to and an analysis of the whole person. The choice of protection measure must therefore be based on a thorough medical, psychological, social, fiscal, family background and environmental assessment.

It is therefore necessary to establish, to the greatest possible extent, a coherent legal framework that effectively recognizes a person's capacity and the expression of his or her will and choices and preferences.

Only a public policy sensitive to the many contributions that older persons make to the economy will proactively support older persons, particularly those rendered most vulnerable by the temporary or chronic problems that affect them, and will enable real progress to be made. This calls for a public debate with choices and priorities, including in terms of material resources.

Lack of access to social protection is an obstacle to economic and social development. Countries must build a genuinely paradigm-shifting national strategy that aims to promote human development and inclusive economic growth.

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Statement submitted by International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

We, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, are a federally incorporated non-profit organization, established and operating at McGill University in Montréal, Canada. We are the one of the only active student-run organizations with Economic and Social Council consultative status on the global stage today. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University is an independent group at the University, comprised of a diverse cohort of McGill students.

Volunteerism is the at the heart of the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, with all of our programming executed by full-time students who devote precious hours and diligent effort to promoting student engagement in global affairs on our campus and in our respective local and international communities.

Of particular importance is the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University's Junior Peacemakers initiative, which offers elementary school students in Montréal globally-minded education on various social and political challenges. Junior Peacemakers employs activities and discussion groups with intersectional approaches in hopes of increasing global awareness at a young age.

Our members have had the opportunity to participate at the United Nations in a consultative capacity for several years now and look forward to a continued relationship with the Economic and Social Council. The wealth of the experiences and knowledge our members have brought home from the United Nations has assisted us in forging positive change in communities throughout the world.

The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University is looking forward to attending the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development and engaging in productive conversation surrounding the priority theme of addressing inequalities and challenges for social inclusion through fiscal, wage, and social protection policies. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University recognizes the impact all stakeholders can and should have in creating policies that better promote social inclusion. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University has explored thoroughly the results of the Division for Inclusive Social Development expert group meeting in June 2018. As an organization that aims to supplement its members' education on international development and project management, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University affirms Capacity Development is a necessary prerequisite for effective national social protection programmes. Member Nations seeking to foster sustainable social protection programmes must first work to establish accessible multidisciplinary social protection programme curricula for individuals seeking to or currently working on social inclusion policy.

In addition, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University recognizes the challenge in ensuring that national tax policies produce benefits that equitably reach all members of society. Distributional inequalities that result directly from tax and transfer systems cannot be overcome until national governments prioritize inclusive economic growth as they create policy. Specifically, national tax policies that better support small businesses, allocate revenue from environmentally related taxes, and harness the advantages of recurrent property taxes to promote inclusive economic growth.

Countering the income inequality that persists worldwide through initiatives that aim at universalising affordable, accessible, and quality education is a point of focus the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University would

like to see discussed at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development.

The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University is as an organization that enthusiastically engages with international relations. We celebrate the years of international progress achieved through the United Nations and anticipate all that is to come. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University will return to the Commission on Social Development this year, interested in further understanding the challenges and inequalities that prevent social inclusion, as well as witnessing the innovative solutions that this session will undoubtedly result in. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University looks forward to giving a voice to the unique perspective of young, passionate leaders of our generation.

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Statement submitted by International Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

The International Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, strongly advocates for policies and programs that support the rights and choices of all older people to be protected, respected and free of discrimination. Unfortunately, many older persons continue to experience inequality of opportunity. This is at least in part due to ageism, which is pervasive throughout all levels of society, resulting in social exclusion of older persons.

The 2018 Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons highlights the numerous ways in which older persons experience social exclusion as well as how social exclusion impacts older peoples' access to basic human rights including social protection and income security. The 2018 Sustainable Development Goals Report indicated that, although 68 percent of older persons received a pension, the typical amount provided is insufficient for prevention of living in poverty. Similarly, Sustainable Development Goal 4, Target 4.4, seeks to increase the development of skills for employability but makes no reference to older people accessing such opportunities. As well, Goal 10 targets focus income inequality while other forms of discrimination, including age-based discrimination, are absent.

Health status should not be a barrier to income security, nor income status a barrier to healthy ageing. The most recent Global Monitoring Report on Tracking Universal Health Coverage released by the World Health Organization in 2017 indicated that coverage of essential health services varies widely between and within countries. As increased age is often associated with increased likelihood of having chronic comorbidities and thus increased healthcare utilization, older persons are more likely to face financial barriers to maintaining their health including the potential of 'financial catastrophe' due to extensive amounts of out-of-pocket spending. This is particularly true if universal health coverage is unavailable or inadequate for the needs of older persons.

Inequality Among Older Persons

As described by the WHO's World report on ageing and health released in 2015, older people are a diverse heterogeneous population with unique experiences influenced through the physical and social environments that affect opportunities, decisions and behaviours throughout the life course. These experiences contribute to overall cumulative advantages or disadvantages including health outcomes. Some subpopulations of older persons experience additional layers of discrimination, which leads to even greater inequalities in access to programs, policies and services. These factors include income status, employment history, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, functional ability, health status, geographic location, among other factors varying by cultural and political contexts.

Recommendations

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report on Preventing Ageing Unequally, published in 2017, provided policy recommendations to address these inequalities which emphasize the use of a life course approach by (1) preventing inequalities before the accumulate across the life course, (2) mitigating entrenched inequalities, and (3) coping with inequality at older ages. The undersigned call upon the Commission for Social Development to ask Member States to:

- Disaggregate data on social protection by age to inform implementation of social protection measures across each stage of life and thus help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty;

- Increase coverage of pension plans to include those who are self-employed or are employed informally;
- Prevent people from experiencing age-based discrimination in employment through the adoption and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws and promoting social campaigns that aim to combat ageism across all areas of life including the workforce;
- Implement and/or support programmes such as vocational training, networking initiatives, job search assistance, and lifelong learning specifically for people who experience barriers to long-term, gainful employment, including older persons;
- Expand universal health coverage to include services that help people maintain their health as they age, such as comprehensive assessments, care planning, assistive devices, and physical rehabilitation and provide financial supports to increase affordability of home care, long-term care, and informal caregiving.

The International Federation on Ageing thanks the Commission for the opportunity to advocate for the improved inclusion of older persons in society through improved social protection policies and welcomes opportunities to collaborate on relevant projects.

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Statement submitted by Priests for Life, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

Priests for Life believes that groups most excluded in today's world are urgently in need of social protection policies if the goal of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind is to be achieved. The groups most in need of social protection span the life cycle, beginning with the child (who, as the Convention on the Rights of the Child reminds us, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth), the disabled and the elderly.

Priests for Life believes that inclusivity in human rights applies to all human beings, no exception, from conception to natural death, and the intrinsic dignity of life is the foundation of social protection policies. Social inclusion ought to extend to all members of the human family during all stages of life.

The need for social protection is especially critical for the preborn baby girl who is identified as female and whose life is lost through sex selection abortion. Imbalanced sex ratios at birth demonstrate the dangerous lack of social protection policies for girls in the prenatal stage of life and are a sign of a global failure to protect the most vulnerable girls from the most lethal form of discrimination — sex selection abortion.

Research and data from countries most affected by sex selection and resulting imbalanced sex ratios at birth, India and China, reveal unprecedented social and economic inequalities and challenges due to the large number of missing women and girls. The failure to protect the lives of girls in the womb leads to additional failures to protect women and girls from the troubling consequences that follow — increases in kidnappings, rapes, sex trafficking and prostitution, bride-selling, and child marriage.

Unless concerted action is taken to protect infant girls in the womb, sex imbalances at birth are not only expected to continue but to rise compounded by access to prenatal sex determination testing kits and access to drugs for self-induced prenatal sex selection abortion. Demographers warn in *Missing Girls: A Globalizing Issue* that the systemic elimination of girls before their birth is the most extreme symptom of women's contemporary undervaluation.

The identification of a girl in the womb followed by her termination combined with boy child preference is the beginning of the pernicious failure of social protection systems. Women's and girls' progress in education and employment opportunities are likely to be affected due to the increasing threat of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, impacting achievement of the SDGs.

Prenatal sex selection is increasingly not confined to countries in Asia but is evident in imbalanced sex ratios in several countries in Eastern Europe including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Montenegro, and Albania, and among ethnic groups around the world. The resulting challenges present serious social and economic implications impacting women's and girls' lives and well-being.

The Beijing Platform for Action recognized prenatal sex selection as violence and discrimination against girls and women and urged governments to prevent and eliminate it. The failure to provide social protection to girls in the earliest stages of life not only results in violence against women and girls throughout the life cycle, but also hinders social and economic development.

The Beijing Platform also recognized that son preference not only discriminates against girls and limits access to food, education and health care but to even life itself. While efforts to ensure girls' access to food, education and health care have benefitted by nearly universal agreement since Beijing, social protection policies to ensure that

girls have universal access to life itself have been stymied by a global failure to embrace consistent non-discriminatory protection of girls beginning at the earliest stages of life.

The need for social protection is also especially critical for the unborn child who is diagnosed with a disability and whose life is devalued based on subjective views. Such exclusion is evident in State-sponsored maternal health programs that emphasize prenatal screenings for impairment followed by abortion when there is possibility of disability, especially in the case of Down syndrome, and in the pronouncements by States that there are nearly zero births of infants with Down syndrome. These actions reinforce the fatal discrimination that selectively ends the lives of children with trisomy 21 and perpetuates negative stigma against an entire group of people.

The failure of States to offer social inclusion to unborn children diagnosed with disabilities and to offer special assistance to their mothers and fathers rather than elimination of their child perpetuates inequality and casts preborn children with a disability as burdens to families and society. Such failure to embrace this excluded group of children jeopardizes efforts to overcome the prejudice, stigma, and negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities and perpetuates a discrimination that fails to protect and provide social inclusion to children subjectively deemed to be imperfect bolstering the falsehood that individuals with an impairment are considered to be unworthy of life.

Subjective discrimination for any reason negatively impacts respect for the right to life of all and renders the human dignity and worth of a human being contingent upon the subjective opinion of others. Priests for Life believes that such reckless disregard for the lives of society's weakest members subjectively denies a human being her or his right to life and perpetuates the perception that life is only for the perfect and that society is intolerant of those with an impairment regardless of their age, condition of dependency, or disability.

Social protection policies for impaired newborns are needed to ensure that impaired newborns do not become the victims of infanticide or abandonment but are afforded the same medical care as non-impaired newborns as well as given critical life-saving treatments when needed. The ending of the lives of children who exhibit physical imperfections at birth must be stopped by strong non-discriminatory social protection systems.

The right to life of each child ought to be respected and protected regardless of subjective views, the family's social and economic condition, the child's sex, or the presence or suspicion of a disability.

Governments exist to preserve and protect inherent rights of all human beings beginning with the right to life and beginning when life begins — at conception — and ending at natural death.

Elderly women are especially vulnerable to extreme poverty and in need of special social protection to ensure their safety and well-being. Individuals suffering from disability and those advanced in age are in need of social protection from abuse and from attempts at euthanasia or assisted suicide to induce death.

These vulnerable individuals are also likely to be living in poverty and challenged by physical illness, mental illness, dementia, or disease. The duty of government is to care for and preserve life, not make judgment calls and deliberately end a person's life.

Priests for Life believes that true equality and social inclusion requires social protection systems to ensure that no human being, from conception to natural death,

is denied their right to life. This includes baby girls in the womb who are marked for elimination because they are female and unborn children identified as having impairment, endangered from a discrimination that seeks their death through abortion. Disabled individuals, regardless of age, and the elderly suffering from illness or disease are also in need of social protection.

Priests for Life believes that life, in its most fragile state, is no less sacred than when it is in its healthiest and it is during life's most fragile state that social protection systems are needed most.

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Statement submitted by Asabe Shehu Yar Adua Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-18362 (E) 061118

Please recycle

Statement

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY: THE SENIOR CITIZENS IN OUR SOCIETY.

Old age is an important phase in life. There is currently a proportional increase in the number of aged people all over the world, which is linked with reference to retrogression. Most Developed countries have set the ages of 60 to 75 for retirement and in other developing countries, some of the aged are still trying to be on their feet without retirement.

Many Senior citizens in our society need care, attention, and support, mostly from their loved ones, to live healthy lives without stress, worries or anxiety. As old age sets in, the older person often faces additional needs and challenges connected to their advancement in life.

There are various medical issues associated with age. Some of the common known ailments are Arthritis, loss of memory and other health-related issues, which hamper or limit their activities to participate in active engagements.

Chronic disease, including conditions such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and arthritis are also among the most common health problems, whereby, some older persons experience limitations in activities due to such conditions. Therefore, senior citizens need proper medication to remain healthy with adequate medical care, doctor's visits, dental care, eye care, physical therapy, and psychiatric therapy when needed.

A healthy lifestyle can be promoted by various means, ranging from educational and counseling programs to financial incentives. Health promotion interventions can take different forms, from small projects to large national programs, which could be funded and organized by donations from individuals, NGOs, or by national governments.

There is a need to create awareness regarding changing behavioral patterns in older persons. Hence, there's a need for a sustainable program to address the health issues that affect the lives of senior citizens in our society, which could further culminate into major physiological and psychological problem.

However, building a sustainable healthcare program is pivotal to reduce the risk of chronic diseases among older people. Such programs can implement techniques and strategies to manage chronic health conditions and promote healthy behaviors to encourage a healthy lifestyle that facilitates the well-being of senior citizens in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Statement submitted by International Federation for Family Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

Implications of the gender gap: a double "taxation" for women

The unequal distribution of unpaid care work between women and men represents an infringement of women's rights, their enjoyment of social protection systems and a brake on their economic empowerment. We argue that gender inequality in unpaid care work is the missing link that influences gender gaps in labor outcomes. The gender gap in unpaid care work has significant implications for women's ability to actively take part in the labor market and the type/quality of employment opportunities available to them [MIRANDA, 2011].

Time is a limited resource, which is divided between labor and leisure, productive and reproductive activities, paid and unpaid work. Every minute more that a woman spends on unpaid care work represents one minute less that she could be potentially spending on market-related activities or investing in her educational and vocational skills [FERRANT, 2014].

Unpaid care activities constitute a time and energy-consuming occupation that limits women's access to the labor market, relegating them to low-income and insecure employment. In countries where women spend a large amount of time on unpaid care and there is a large gender gap in time spent, the gender gap in hourly wages is also higher.

Unpaid care work entails a systemic transfer of hidden subsidies to the rest of the economy that go unrecognized, imposing a systematic time-tax on women throughout their life cycle [ANTONOPOULOS, 2009]. Caregiving is a complex activity, which requires among other physical and emotional skills, empathy, patience, dedication and effort. The result for those who do it is frequently exhaustion and, at times even illness [SILVERA, 2010].

Globally, an increase in girls' education and women's paid work means a decrease in the supply of unpaid work. Dependency is the fourth pillar of the Welfare State [SILVERA, 2010]. Women bear greater responsibility for unpaid care than men. Prevailing gender norms mean that women and girls undertake the bulk of unpaid care work such as looking after and educating children, looking after older family members, caring for the sick, preparing food, cleaning, and collecting water and fuel.

The socially prescribed and entrenched gender roles that denote women and girls as care providers can undermine their rights, limit their opportunities, capabilities and choices, and so impede their empowerment. Prevailing gender norms mean that, across all societies, women and girls undertake the bulk of unpaid care work such as looking after and educating children, looking after older family members, caring for the sick, preparing food, cleaning, and collecting water and fuel. This unequal burden of unpaid care undermines women and girls' rights (to decent work, to education, to health, to rest and leisure), limits their opportunities and, therefore, impedes their economic empowerment. It hinders women from seeking employment and income, which in turn holds them back economically.

The role of fathers

While there is a growing body of evidence about the role of fathers in children's lives, there are also knowledge gaps, and the quality of evidence varies. The labor force status is an important determinant of the time parents devote to childcare. Both [illegible] has been made to capture evidence about the positive influences of fathers on child development and well-being, it is pertinent to note that studies to date have more

often focused on the negative impacts of poor or absent fathering on children [WOOD & LAMBIN, 2013].

Most fathers aspire to share care-giving equally with their spouse/partner, but often are unable to bring this desire to reality. Fathers need time to develop parenting skills, but they don't have it. The fact that men don't bear children is obviously an unchangeable biological fact. The fact that men don't rear children is not. People are not born with the gene that teaches them all they need to know to be effective parents – neither women nor men. From the first days and weeks after childbirth, many (we hope most) women have the opportunity to spend time with their children, which facilitates both bonding with their newborn and the development of competencies as new parents. In contrast, few men are provided with an opportunity to spend significant time with their young children [HARRINGTON, 2011].

Unpaid work is also interlinked with the position individuals occupy in paid work because:

- It shapes the ability, duration and types of paid work that can be undertaken;
- It reduces the exercise of "voice" over decision-making and ability to accumulate savings and assets;
- In many societies, it is viewed as outside its socioeconomic dimensions and contributions;
- It is presumed for workers who are unskilled, with low pay, slender options for promotion and scant social protection.

Age is also a determinant of unpaid work, albeit with a smaller quantitative impact. The frequency of involvement first increases, then reaches a maximum before decreasing [MCCLOUGHAN, 2011]. The turning points pertaining mostly to women are:

- The mid-40s in the case of caring for and educating children;
- The late 40s in respect of cooking and housework;
- The early 50s for caring for elderly/disabled relatives.

Not only are women more involved in unpaid work, also the kind of activities in which they engage differs from their male counterparts. The most typical male tasks in the household are construction and repair work where women's involvement is limited, both in terms of participation and the amount of time they devote to the task. Men also devote slightly more time to gardening and pet care, but their participation rates in these activities are more or less equal to those of women. Tasks that have traditionally been thought of 'women's work' (e.g. cooking and cleaning) continue to be primarily performed by women. In the countries surveyed, 82% of women prepare meals on an average day, while only 44% of men do. Also, the average time spent by women on cooking is four times the time spent by men [MIRANDA, 2011].

As the reasons for unpaid work inequalities are multi-layered, there need to be distinct policy interventions to effectively remedy their negative impacts for different groups of women. Work-family reconciliation policies must be tailored accordingly.

From "shadow" to formal

[illegible] work [illegible]

Home care services form part of "white jobs" together with healthcare services and residential care activities, while housework services are at the border of this category.

Demand for care and household services is expected to increase due to an important trend on ageing in all Member States, combined with the expected decline of the number of potential carers within the family circle.

Rather than asking which type of State is best for women performing unpaid work, "we will attempt to make some observations that help contextualize their potential effects within diverse frameworks and policy spaces. If a country is facing underemployment and unemployment, and is willing to engage in public work programs, we need to identify (from a gender point of view) the interventions that can ameliorate burdens on women; if social cash transfers are used to improve human development indicators, it is useful to investigate how and when they are also helpful in addressing unpaid care work. When universal provisioning is a viable option, we need to ensure that policies are mindful of existing inequalities in paid and unpaid work" [ANTONOPOULOS, 2009].

In policy debates in many Member States, personal and household services are often mentioned as a possible answer to the following issues:

- Better work-life balance, achieved through increased externalization of daily tasks carried out at home as well as of child and elderly care. Accessible and affordable care services are also an important precondition for increasing female participation in the labor market.
- Creation of job opportunities for the relatively low-skilled, in particular as far as housework services are concerned, at a low cost for public finance by encouraging the provision of housework services in the formal economy rather than in the shadow economy. Job creation is also a factor in considering the cost of different options for long-term care.
- Improvement in the quality of care, thanks to a work-force having the right skills and benefiting from good working conditions, subject to quality controls on the service providers.

Given the foreseeable impact of demographic evolution on our societies, European labor markets need to become more inclusive and employment rate needs to rise. Personal and household services offer significant opportunities in this respect, allowing work-life balance to be improved, productivity to be increased and undeclared work to be brought into the official labor market [EU Commission Staff Working Document on exploiting the employment potential of the personal and household services, 2012]. When related to a country's development level, country cross-sectional data suggest that demographic factors and public policies tend to exercise a much larger impact.

One of the "solutions" for better reconciliation of work with family responsibilities involves more paid employment in caring, but the conditions of work and employment in these jobs often leave much to be desired. Undervaluation of paid care work goes hand in hand with lack of recognition of unpaid care work, which is seen as natural and not requiring skills.

Female migration in this context has significant impacts both in the South and the North. In the receiving countries, the employment of female immigrants represents an individual household's solution to the needs of balancing family and labor market work. [ANTONOPOULOS, 2009]

Family members have always been the mainstay for providing care to aging and other relatives or friends who need assistance with everyday living. Yet family

Policy recommendations

1. Recognize and communicate the value of work-family balance in the economy and in society.

2. Develop, provide and communicate comprehensive well-resourced and flexible parental leave entitlements throughout the life course of the family and in periods of transition.

3. Support, promote and communicate part-time working arrangements according to parental choice by ensuring non-discriminatory practices towards parents in the labor market. Promote skill development and learning systems throughout the life course of the family and in periods of transition to facilitate parents re-entering the labor market.

4. Promote, develop and communicate key media messages focusing on the value of children, maternity, paternity and families in our communities and societies.

5. Develop, promote and communicate the economic and social value of family-friendly workplaces in accordance with comprehensive systems of accreditation.

6. Enhance dialogue and partnerships between social policy makers and relevant stakeholders, including families, family associations, business sector, trade unions and employers to develop and improve family-friendly policies and practices in the workplace.

7. Support and promote a stronger, integrated, accessible and supported framework to enhance lone parents' opportunities to balance work and family life and therefore fully engage in education, skill development and job advancement.

8. Recognize and communicate the social, economic and cultural value of family care work.

9. Offer and promote a variety of care practices and opportunities to enable families to make choices (e.g. regarding childcare arrangements), according to their parental responsibilities, needs and values.

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Statement submitted by African Cultural Promotions Inc, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

Please recycle

Statement

African Cultural Promotions Inc.(ACPI) an organization dedicated to advancement, through promotion of cultural exchange, of communal habitation in creating social respect and understanding between people and the work of the government. ACPI encourages cultural exchange programs to achieve the goal of meaningful commitment; develops programs specifically tailored to the affective, social needs and interests of the prevailing government initiative for the community. Additionally, ACPI fosters advocacy and dialogue between and among ethnic cultures in the community, creating dynamic and robust networks of individuals across disciplines living in communities.

ACPI welcomes the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development and considered its priority theme, "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies" as very relevant to the concerns of the world's populations relating to social inclusion, particularly with respect to culture and sustainable living.

Since its formation, ACPI has promoted issues concerning culture and sustainable communal living, and has significantly facilitated initiatives and campaigns on:

- Integrating culture into good governance as a means of better resource management and job creation for community dwellers, and has collaborated with community stakeholders including cultural organizations to advocate for policies that could help promote culture for positive economic growth and successes;

ACPI sees culture as a panacea for addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion and protection, which are critical drivers and important measures of fiscal, wage and social protection policies. Culture is essential for bringing about the economic, policies and reserves needed to address such challenges. It is also critical to address economic opportunities of the community dwellers that are poor, and to promote fiscal and wages needed for sustainable living. Poor community dwellers have the right to the social gains needed to exert influence over policies for social protection and political, economic and social inclusion, as well as to participate in processes that determine sustainable livelihood opportunities in communities. Sustainable social inclusion requires a culture of people which strengthens community dwellers and provides them with social enablement to address challenges relating to fiscal and wages issues in ascribing to be beneficiaries of social and economic growth.

From the time of the preparatory process for the post 2015 Agenda, to the adoption of the seventeen global goals, to the present, culture has been looked at as the bedrock of sustainability and for addressing differences across communities and nations. Culture creates opportunities to address social vices such as poverty, hunger, and other social issues that impinge on our human existence and development. Culture has been noted to address protection polices, values and norms that can keep communities and individuals safe and secure.

Evidence shows that culture performs better in social inclusion and positively when concerns on positive and sustainable existence of community harbingers are involved in fiscal, wages and social protection policies. Culture must be seen as a

protection policies.

Culturally sensitive policies and programs should be encouraged, so as to help make good decisions about inequalities while addressing challenges to social inclusions.

African Cultural Promotions Inc. considered it significantly important to addressing inequality within and among communities through culture and has adopted SDG 10 and its targets as a project through its MUSICULTURE Project and School TALENCULTURE.

Accomplishments

The African Cultural Promotions Inc. has worked to help to build greater recognition and respect for cultures on social concerns to address problems and promote economic values that are imbibed in the fundamental unit of fiscal, wages and social protection policies. Educational programs, academic conferences, public events and cultural celebrations have been carried out to enrich the understanding of the significant need to promote social policies, methodologies and practices to strengthen culture. ACPI offers promotional educational programs for culture and character education that address social inclusion challenges.

Over the years, especially since the development of the 2030 Agenda, ACPI has focused on the following initiatives and programs:

MUSICULTURE: The MUSICULTURE Project is a collection of pictures of promotion of cultural events showcasing different cultures among ethnic groups from across communities. The pictures are reproduced in encyclopedia community exhibits with partnership organizations. The pictures are disseminated as headway images showcasing Leave No One behind Agenda in Communities.

SCHOOLTALENCULTURE: ACPI provides education and cross-cultural exchange program schools in the community on voice auditioning through singing, African cultural sports education and Diplomatic Education. Youth and kids experience cultural education about 2030 Agenda, SDG10 and targets, world culture - especially Africa, America and Caribbean culture - as well as training on creative, vocal and artistic talents. Talented youth and students are provided with education support and certificate.

Culture for SDG10: ACPI provides education, training on economic growth, poverty eradication, social protection through SDG10 and targets, and also advocates for improved cultural tools for increased wages and social protections

Our programs on MUSICULTURE, Culture for SDG10 and School TALENCULTURE has continued to address SDG 10 and its targets using culture as necessary tool for overcoming inequalities and challenges to socio-economic values and norms.

Way forward

Although encouraged by its work and mission, ACPI affirms that the inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wages and social protection policies is of great concern to world's populations based on culture. ACPI feels there is much more work to do to help policymakers see culture as a means of providing unique capacity necessary for communal existence, human sustainable living, and development and socioeconomic sustainability. Economic development, income and

through integrative cultural partnerships across the world. ACPI looks forward to making better use of the cultural information and education in encouraging best practices for overcoming inequalities and social inclusion challenges.

It is our hope that we can better support the goals and accomplishments of the United Nations as we strive to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, with a special focus on the culture-Social inclusions.

As the Commission on Social Development at its 57 Session notes of these challenges, efforts must be geared towards addressing policies with respect to the following issues:

- Cultural Cooperatives should be endorsed by governments, as co-operatives can contribute to social inclusion by implementing effective strategies, sharing knowledge and establishing partnerships with other agents of change
- Cultural technology should be used to promote high labor, fiscal and wage standards
- Integrate culture with developments that could impro· e on fiscal, wages and social protection tendencies.

In conclusion, ACPI posits that the Commission for Social Development 57th Session Bureau should be informed of the need to establish awareness centers in rural communities to ensure adequate outreach and information on the mission of the Commission especially in addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion in communities.

There should be significant measures to promote cultural as a panacea to addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wages and social protection policies.